

Ararat Rural Council, Pyrenees and Northern Grampians Shire Councils

Grampians Pyrenees Healthy Communities Plan

Justification - why do the project?

The Grampians Pyrenees Primary Care Partnership (PCP) covers the local government areas of Ararat Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire and Pyrenees Shire. The majority of health and welfare service providers in this area were involved with the PCP and as the same agencies would be involved in a Municipal Public Health Plan, it was considered wise to avoid duplication in planning efforts.

The project aimed to establish an innovative approach to public health planning in local government across the Grampians Pyrenees local government region. By integrating the planning processes of the Grampians Pyrenees PCP (community health planning) with local government (public health planning), a framework was developed that can serve as a model for other municipalities.

Methodology - how we did it

An initial project group was formed and consensus reached on the project and project brief. A contractor was engaged to facilitate development of the plan. A series of meetings were held across the region at which key stakeholders identified issues and current activities. A planning day was convened where information was distilled into key themes and issues and a second planning day developed strategies to address these. In the background, a steering group provided guidance and development for the project.

Partners – who was involved?

The project was jointly funded by Ararat Rural City Council, Department of Human Services, Grampians Pyrenees PCP, Northern Grampians Shire and Pyrenees Shire. The 26 member agencies of the PCP have been involved and have contributed to the project. Additional agencies (schools, Victoria Police and local businesses) and community members have also contributed.

Outcomes – what changes occurred as a result of the project?

The project has developed enthusiasm amongst the participants; increased understanding of local government's impact on wellbeing (for both local government and health agencies); and developed a methodology for future planning.

Where to now?

The project is still in progress. We are continuing to work towards completion by December 2004. We recognise that this is only the beginning.

Contact

John Dixon
Manager Community Services
Pyrenees Shire
Tel: 5349 1112
Email: john.dixon@pyrenees.vic.gov.au

